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Attorney Docket No.: 944-3.198  
Serial No.: 10/712,788

In the claims: The claims are as follows.

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus for use by a communication device, comprising:

a cellular interface, providing at least part of a wireless or plug connection to a user equipment device configured for cellular communication; and

a short-range transceiver, coupled to the cellular interface, for wirelessly communicating with a short-range transceivers transceiver of either another communication devicesdevice via a direct connection to the short-range transceivers of the other communication device, for receiving from another the other communication device via the direct connection information including indicating an identifier indicating of the other communication device;

an annunciator, for alerting a user to the occurrence of an eventreceipt of the information by producing a stimulus of at least one of either sound or vibration or light in response to a control signal, and so for alerting the user that the other communication device is within the range of the short-range transceiver;

a buddy list data store, for holding a list of identifiers, with the list organized as records so as to be able to retrieve a record based on the identifier; and

a buddy detector application, responsive to the information including the identifier indicating the other communication device, for providing to the annunciator a—the control signal actuating the annunciator if and only if the identifier is included in the buddy list data store.

2. (Previously presented) A communication terminal comprising a user equipment device configured for cellular communication and an

Attorney Docket No.: 944-3.198  
Serial No.: 10/712,788

apparatus as in claim 1, wherein the user equipment device includes an auxiliary user interface providing a user interface to the apparatus, and the user equipment user interface is operative in combination with the auxiliary user interface.

3. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the short-range transceiver is operative according to the BlueTooth protocol or other short-range radio-wave based protocol.

4. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the cellular interface is via the BlueTooth protocol or other radiofrequency-based coupling protocol, or uses an infrared-based coupling technology.

5. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the short-range transceiver of the apparatus is operative according to a predetermined protocol and has a range at least several multiples of the range usual for a short-range transceiver operative according to the predetermined protocol.

6. Canceled.

7. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the identifier is an identifier of a short-range transceiver associated with the predetermined buddy.

8. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the buddy identifier is a nickname of the predetermined buddy.

9. (Previously presented) A communication terminal comprising a user equipment device configured for cellular communication and the apparatus of claim 1, wherein the buddy detector application provides to the user equipment device information indicating the predetermined buddy for display to a user via a user interface of

Attorney Docket No.: 944-3.198  
Serial No.: 10/712,788

the user equipment device.

10. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

a store and forward service application, for receiving communications via the short-range transceiver, for determining whether the communications have as an intended recipient a device that is peer to the apparatus but is other than the apparatus, and for retransmitting any such communications via the short-range transceiver and including in the retransmission an identifier indicating a user of the apparatus, thereby providing to peer devices an increased-range short-range communication facility and allowing the user to take credit for providing the facility.

11. (Previously presented) A communication terminal comprising a user equipment device configured for cellular communication and the apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

a controller adapted to receive from another device a request for permission to control a stimulus generator, to present the request to a user via a user interface of the user equipment device, to signal the user response to the request, to receive command signals from the other device indicating commands to cause one or another of various available stimuli sensations, and to provide stimulus control signals corresponding to the received command signals; and

the stimulus generator, responsive to the stimulus control signals, for generating stimulus sensations corresponding to the stimulus control signals.

12. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the stimulus generator emits light of a color indicated by the stimulus control signal.

Attorney Docket No.: 944-3.198  
Serial No.: 10/712,788

13. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the stimulus generator emits sound indicated by the stimulus control signal.

13. Canceled.

14. (Previously presented) A communication terminal comprising a user equipment device configured for cellular communication and the apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

a personal web page administrator, responsive to signals from the short-range transceiver indicating the nearby presence of another short-range transceiver, for exchanging signals with a user of the user equipment device to determine whether to send a personal web page to the other short-range transceiver and for sending a web page to the other short-range transceiver; and

a web page data store holding the personal web page.

15. (Previously presented) A communication terminal comprising a user equipment device configured for cellular communication and the apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

a phone list data store for holding a list of phone numbers organized as records indexed based on a nickname identifier wherein the phone numbers are kept secret from a user, and for providing a phone number from the phone list data store in a guarded signal so as not to reveal the phone number to a user;

and wherein the apparatus is configured to respond to the guarded signal by causing the phone number to be dialed by the user equipment device without revealing the phone number to the user equipment user interface and so keep the phone number secret from a user of the user equipment device.

16. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the

Attorney Docket No.: 944-3.198  
Serial No.: 10/712,788

apparatus is configured so that the phone number is called only for sending a message according to the short message service or another kind of text and/or graphics message, but not for enabling voice communication.

17. (Previously presented) A system, comprising a telecommunications network including a radio access network, and a user equipment device, wherein the user equipment device is provided in combination with an apparatus as in claim 1.

18. (Currently amended) A method for use by a communication device, comprising:

receiving a communication from another communication device using a short-range transceiver via a direct connection between the short-range transceiver and a short-range transceiver of the other communication device so that the other communication device is necessarily located within the range of the short-range transceiver, wherein the communication conveys, via a short range transceiver in a communication device, information indicating an identifier of the other communication device; and

determining whether the identifier of the other communication device indicates a buddy in a buddy list data store stored in the communication device, and if so, providing to an annunciator a control signal actuating the annunciator to indicate to a user receiving the information indicating the identifier of the other communication device receipt of the communication, and so to indicate that the other communication device is within the range of the short-range transceiver of the communication device, wherein the annunciator produces a stimulus of at least one of either sound or vibration or light in response to the control signal.

19. Canceled.

Attorney Docket No.: 944-3.198  
Serial No.: 10/712,788

20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the short-range transceiver is operative according to the BlueTooth protocol or a comparable short-range radio-wave based protocol.

21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the interface with the user equipment device is via the BlueTooth protocol or other radiofrequency-based coupling protocol, or uses an infrared-based coupling technology.

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the short-range transceiver of the apparatus is operative according to a predetermined protocol and has a range at least several multiples of the range usual for a short-range transceiver operative according to the predetermined protocol.

23. Canceled.

24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the identifier is an identifier of a short-range transceiver included as part of the peer device.

25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the identifier is a nickname of a user associated with the other communication device.

26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 18, further comprising providing to a user equipment device the identifier, for display to a user via a user interface of the user equipment device.

27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 18, further comprising providing a store and forward service of:

receiving communications via the short-range transceiver and determining whether the communications have as an intended

Attorney Docket No.: 944-3.198  
Serial No.: 10/712,788

recipient a device that is peer to the auxiliary device but is other than the auxiliary device; and

retransmitting any such communications via the short-range transceiver and including in the retransmission an identifier indicating a user of the auxiliary device, thereby providing to peer devices an increased-range short-range communication facility and allowing the user to take credit for providing the facility.

28. (Currently amended) The method of claim 18, further comprising:

receiving from a peer device, via the short-range transceiver, stimulus control signals indicating commands to cause one or another of various available stimuli sensations; and

providing the received stimulus control signals to a stimulus generator for generating ~~stimuli~~ stimulus sensations corresponding to the stimulus control signals.

29. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein the stimulus generator emits light of a color indicated by the stimulus control signal.

~~30. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein the stimulus generator emits sound indicated by the stimulus control signal.~~

30. Canceled.

31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 18, further comprising:

receiving signals via the short-range transceiver indicating the nearby presence of another short-range transceiver; and

using the short-range transceiver to send a personal web page to the other short-range transceiver.

Attorney Docket No.: 944-3.198  
Serial No.: 10/712,788

32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 18, further comprising:

adding a phone number to a phone list data store holding a list of phones organized as records indexed based on a nickname identifier, wherein the phone numbers are kept secret from a user;

retrieving the phone number, along with an associated nickname, and providing both in a guarded signal so as not to reveal the phone number to a user; and

using the guarded signal to place a call to the phone number using a user equipment device configured for cellular communication, while displaying to a user the nickname but not the number being called and keeping secret from the user the phone number being called.

33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the phone number is called using the short message service or another kind of text and/or graphics message service, but not a voice communication service.

34. (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium encoded with a computer program product comprising: a computer readable storage structure embodying computer program code thereon for execution by a computer processor in equipment comprising a user equipment device coupled to an auxiliary device, wherein said computer program code includes instructions for performing the method of claim 18.

35. (Currently amended) An apparatus for use in a communication device, comprising:

cellular interface means for providing at least part of a wireless or plug connection to a user equipment device configured for cellular communication; and

Attorney Docket No.: 944-3.198  
Serial No.: 10/712,788

short-range transceiver means, coupled to the cellular interface, for wirelessly communicating with a short-range transceiver of another communication device via a direct connection to the short-range transceivers of the other communication device, for receiving from another the other communication device via the direct connection information including indicating an identifier indicating of the other communication device;

annunciator means, for alerting a user to the occurrence of an event receipt of the information by producing a stimulus of at least one of either sound or vibration or light, and so for alerting the user that the other communication device is within the range of the short-range transceiver;

a buddy list data store means, for holding a list of identifiers, with the list organized as records so as to be able to retrieve a record based on the identifier; and

buddy detector means, responsive to the information including the identifier indicating the other communication device, for providing to the annunciator a control signal actuating the annunciator if and only if the identifier is included in the buddy list data store means.

36. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the short-range transceiver means is operative according to the BlueTooth protocol or other short-range radio-wave based protocol.

37. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the cellular interface means is via the BlueTooth protocol or other radiofrequency-based coupling protocol, or uses an infrared-based coupling technology.

38. (Currently amended) A module for use in a communication device, comprising:

Attorney Docket No.: 944-3.198  
Serial No.: 10/712,788

a buddy list data store, for holding a list of identifiers, with the list organized as records so as to be able to retrieve a record based on the identifier; and

a processor configured to respond to ~~information~~ a communication received via a direct connection with another communication device provided by a short-range transceiver of the communication device and a short-range transceiver of the other communication device, the communication including an identifier indicating ~~another~~ ~~the other~~ communication device, for providing to an annunciator a control signal actuating the annunciator if and only if the identifier is included in the buddy list data store, wherein the control signal causes the annunciator to provide a stimulus of at least one of either sound or vibration or light.